



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE ANNOUNCES MILLIONS FOR RHODE ISLAND HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) has announced that over \$15 million in federal funding has been included for Rhode Island in the House-Senate conference report on the Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006. The bill was approved late Friday night.

Using his growing influence and clout, Senator Chafee worked with members of the Appropriations Committee to secure the following projects for Rhode Island:

Commuter Rails:

- **\$4 Million for South County Commuter Rail**, for the extension of the existing Providence-Boston commuter rail service to the South County region.

Federal Highway Administration Projects:

- **\$2 Million for the Sakonnet River Bridge Replacement.** These dollars will be used to replace the Sakonnet River Bridge on a new alignment immediately south of the existing structure. The crossing carries Rhode Island State Route 24 over the Sakonnet River, a tidal passage separating the Town of Portsmouth on Aquidneck Island to the west and the Town of Tiverton on the mainland to the east. The crossing is an integral part of Route 24, which is a key link in the transportation system connecting Massachusetts to Rhode Island and the Aquidneck Island communities.

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Transportation and Community and System Preservation:

- **\$500,000 for the Town of North Kingstown** for the replacement and restoration of the existing sidewalks, pavement and curbing, as well as upgrades to the existing drainage system and lighting along Main Street in the historic village of Wickford.

Economic Development Initiatives:

- **\$350,000 for Cranston Public Library Building Construction** to move and renovate an 1825 former church that was donated to the library. The building will serve as the Arlington Branch Library in a community that greatly needs a full-service up-to-date library facility. The new library will be used by students in an area with the second lowest per capita income level in the city.
- **\$250,000 for Jamiel Park in Warren.** This town-owned recreational facility in Warren houses playing fields for various team sports, tennis courts, and open space for passive recreation. The town intends to use this funding for the reconstruction and installation of recreational facilities, remediation of identified soil contaminants, proper closure of the old landfill, and restoration of the natural habitats of the adjacent river and cove.
- **\$200,000 for Meeting Street School** for the development of the Bright Futures Early Learning Center. The Center will offer children with disabilities and their families a fully accessible, state-of-the-art environment where they can receive a high quality education and have access to clinical expertise, special equipment, and community-based inclusive academic resources in the same setting as their peers without disabilities. The project will also create approximately 369 new jobs, and will be located on a federally designated Brownfields area, as well as in an Enterprise Zone Empowerment Community where 40 percent of families are considered living below the poverty level, with almost 18 percent of the households on public assistance.
- **\$200,000 for Sexual Assault and Trauma Resource Center** to acquire a building that will expand its capacity to serve child victims of sexual and physical abuse. This new building will also provide the Center with additional space to provide its traditional sexual assault crisis, advocacy and prevention services.
- **\$200,000 for Pastime Theatre Building Improvements.** The Pastime Theatre in Bristol is working on the restoration of its building for use as a community-based center for the performing arts and cinema. The restoration project will return the historic theater to its 1934 art deco movie palace stature, while also featuring state-of-the-art stage facilities

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- **\$200,000 for Family Service of Rhode Island** to acquire and transform a house in Providence into a trauma center that would be dedicated to reducing children's exposure to violence by supporting the child and family with social services and psychological guidance and treatment. Family Service is a non-profit human service agency which provides a number of social services including: medical and HIV/AIDS case management, mental health and substance abuse treatment, early intervention for infants and toddlers with developmental issues, and school-based crisis intervention and facilitated access to child/family support services.
- **\$200,000 for the Town of West Warwick River Walk.** The proposed River Walk is located in the Arctic section of West Warwick, which was a major cultural and economic hub in the state before shopping malls were built in a neighboring town. Investment in the 1.5 mile River Walk will promote a rediscovery of this important heritage.
- **St. Mary's Home for Children Building Renovations** to renovate the former Sophia Little building in Cranston, and to build an addition onto the existing structure. St. Mary's is Rhode Island's largest, most comprehensive treatment facility for neglected, abused, and emotionally disordered children, and in order to meet the needs of children and families throughout the State, St. Mary's is expanding its services to include Children's Intensive Services and Enhanced Outpatient Services.
- **\$200,000 Stand Up for Animals Building for Construction** of its state-of-the-art animal shelter, adoption center and regional outreach facility to be located in Westerly, Rhode Island. The need for this new facility is rooted in the community's response to the rising number of healthy, impounded or abandoned animals that are euthanized because the existing facility lacks the space to house them until adoptions can take place. The new shelter will have capacity and resources to provide public education, an essential factor in helping to eliminate overpopulation of domesticated dogs and cats, animal cruelty and abandonment.

Amtrak:

- Within this measure, \$1.315 Billion was allocated for Amtrak. Senator Chafee had joined with Senator Byrd and others to push for \$1.4 billion during the budget after the Administration cut substantial funding from Amtrak's account. Amtrak ended the year with \$120 million left over from fiscal year 2005. This combined with the \$1.315 from the current appropriations bill, brings them close to their request of \$1.45 billion to keep the railroad running and keep up the capital improvements program.

Chafee also worked with Senator Reed to deliver funding for the following projects:

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Federal Transit Administration Funding:

- **\$1.24 Million for RIPTA Edgewood Facility**
- **\$500,000 for RIPTA Bus Replacement**
- **\$200,000 for RIPTA Transit Security**

Federal Highway Administration Projects:

- **\$3.65 Million for Blackstone River Bikeway**

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